

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8986

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C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 1150

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINR, LOS, EC, EFIS

SUBJECT: NEW SUBSECRETARY FOR FISHING: COMMANDER ALBERTO CANIZARES
ROBLES

1. THE GOE ANNOUNCED ON FEB. 4, 1976 THE APPOINTMENT OF CAPTAIN DE FRAGATA (COMMANDER) ALBERTO CANIZARES ROBLES AS SUBSECRETARY FOR FISHING OF THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY. HE SUCCEEDS CAPT. ETIEL RODRIGUEZ WHO HAS BEEN NOMINATED AS GOE NAVAL ATTACHE TO GERMANY. AT THE TIME OF HIS SELECTION CANIZARES WAS SERVING AS AIDE TO ADMIRAL ALFREDO POVEDA, PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT. BEFORE THAT HE WAS NAVAL AIDE TO THEN PRESIDENT GENERAL RODRIGUEZ LARA.

2. CANIZARES WAS BORN IN MANTA, MANABI, ECUADOR WWG. 3, 1935. HE ENTERED THE NAVY IN 1955 AS A MIDSHIPMAN AND GRADUATED FROM THE ECUADOREAN NAVAL ACADEMY IN 1959. HE IS CONSIDERED AN EXPERT ON OCEANOGRAPHIC MATTERS AND IN 1972 WAS NAMED DIRECTOR OF THE NAVY OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE. HIS SKILLS AND INTERESTS IN MATTERS OF THE SEA ARE HIGHLY DEVELOPED.

3. HIS PREDECESSOR, CAPTAIN RODRIGUEZ, ESPOUSED A VERY
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NATIONALISTIC POLICY ON FISHING BY FOREIGN FLAG VESSELS IN

ECUADOREAN-CLAIMED WATERS, AND WAS OCCASIONALLY DIFFICULT. THERE ARE REPORTS, WHICH WE TEND TO CREDIT, THAT RODRIGUEZ' CHANGE DERIVES IN PART FROM HIS RELUCTANT AND SLOW IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES DICTATED BY CHIEF OF THE JOINT STAFF ECUADOREAN ARMED FORCES/COMMANDER OF THE NAVY (AND NOW PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL) ALFREDO POVEDA TO ENCOURAGE FOREIGN FISHING BOATS TO PURCHASE ECUADOREAN FISHING LICENSES AND THUS DECREASE THE CHANCES FOR SEIZURES AND THE CONSEQUENT PROBLEMS WITH THE US. POVEDA'S APPOINTMENT OF CANIZARES MAY BE DUE TO THE ADMIRAL'S DESIRE TO FILL THIS IMPORTANT POSITION WITH SOMEONE BOTH SKILLED, LOYAL, AND PERHAPS MORE APPRECIATIVE OF THE NEED TO OBTAIN AGREEMENT WITH THE US ON FISHING MATTERS WITHOUT SACRIFICING ECUADOREAN DOCTRINES.

4. THUS FROM THE USG POINT OF VIEW THE APPOINTMENT OF CANIZARES REPRESENTS AN IMPROVEMENT. HE IS WELL KNOWN TO THE NAVAL ATTACHE AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN FRIENDLY TO MISSION OFFICERS. WE BELIEVE HE WILL BE EASIER TO WORK WITH THAN RODRIGUEZ, BOTH IN TERMS OF HIS DISPOSITION TOWARD THE US AS WELL AS HIS EXPERTISE ON FISHING AND OCEANOGRAPHY.
BREWSTER

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